This record is a partial extract of the original cable. The full text of the original cable is not available.

S E C R E T SANAA 000923

SIPDIS

STATE FOR NEA/ARPI NSC FOR FTOWNSEND

E.O. 12958: DECL: 04/13/2010

TAGS: PINR PREL PTER YE COUNTER TERRORISM SUBJECT: SALEH ON KANAAN: WE'VE GOT HIM!!

REF: IIR 6906012405

Classified By: DCM NABEEL KHOURY FOR REASONS 1.4 (b) AND (d)

Gentlemen, We've Got Him!

11. (S) In a conference call with Ambassador and DCM, President Ali Abdallah Saleh informed us last night, Tuesday, April 12, that suspected terrorist Kanaan has been caught. Saleh began with, "You know this man Kanaan who has been threatening you and for whose sake you closed down your embassy? Well, we've caught him. In fact, we also arrested, two days ago, two of his top assistants." Saleh went on to say that these arrests show the "seriousness and honesty" of his services and the political will at the top for full cooperation with "our friends the Americans." You, on the other hand said Saleh, "don't move on our requests." Saleh reassured us that his cooperation and the cooperation of his "services" would continue no matter what.

Now, Where's Our Stuff?

12. (S) Saleh did not waste time for his usual quid-pro-quo tactics. "So, where's my stuff? We have requested equipment and weapons for our CSF counter terrorism unit," said Saleh. "We have suffered important and costly losses in Saada and we need your help. Please tell Washington that this is urgent." "I respond to you immediately when you need something," added Saleh, "and now, you must do the same for me."

Action Request:

13. (S) We have presented, through military channels, a list of items requested by the Minister of Interior specifically for his CSF/CTU unit (reftel). The Ambassador will be sending a message separately to Centcom leadership to see about speeding up some material already requested through FMF funds. Post hereby requests Department and NSC assistance in having a deliverable, or two, for NSC to offer as a pat on the back during the planned telephone conversation later this week. The deliverable could be any of the items in reftel, but we recommend and advance on the armored vehicles which MOI says are urgently needed for an operation against an AQ target in the Ma'rib region.